



RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org

MAY 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 9th, 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY – Discussion about FT8 operation, QSLing - using the ARRL LoTW and eQSL and getting paper cards by US mail. DX card are still received from ARRL incoming services but by far less then say 10 years ago. Receiving a QSL card by mail is only for needed grid, state or county and usually comes with an SASE. Some send digital QSL cards by email. Even using LoTW and eQSL would guarantee a QSL card as many DX station want money to to upload them and this can be handled on Club Log. On FT8, we discussed syncing your computer clock using software which looks at incoming decodes and will adjust your computer clock based on that data. This can be used if Internet time is not available. We agreed to pay Indiana Repeater Council \$8 dues. K9RU will follow up. Field Day is still a GO for this year. The question was asked if we should consider doing our own Field Day operation next year instead of joining up with the Indy United FD group. Jim Wolford, WB8FAX, made some PCBs for the crystal filters used at the repeater site. We will add them to the stock of repeater parts.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2023 **(No test session in May)**
Time: Starting at Noon **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: Jim Rinehart Ph:(317) 721-1458
Email: k9ru@arrl.net
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.

Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

Online amateur radio license tests sessions:

ARRL online test sessions: <http://www.arrl.org/findonlineexam>

Additional online examination dates and teams : <https://hamstudy.org/sessions>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thursday, 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 HZ
CENTRAL INDIANA SKYWARN REPEATERS – https://www.w9nws.org/repeater_map

May 6 Indiana QSO Party 11 AM – 11PM <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

May 19-21 Dayton Hamvention / ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention, Xenia, Ohio
<https://hamvention.org/>

May 27-28 CQ WPX CW <https://www.cqwpix.com/>

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.htm>

INDIANA QSO PARTY (INQP) MAY 6 – The Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is May 6th from 11AM until 11PM. The INQP is a casual contest with stations outside of Indiana trying to work all the Indiana counties.

Indiana stations work as many stations as possible and all the Indiana counties. You can work 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M, CW and SSB, no FT8. In the past 80M, 40M and 20M have had most of the activity, but with the solar flux being so high 10 meters could be great this year.

If you enjoy POTA operating, the INQP portable operation can give you a chance to put on some of the rare counties. Check HDXCC for rules, logging programs and county abbreviations. <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/> – Jim K9RU

RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION – If you're planning to go to the Hamvention, the Club lunch get-together will be as usual. Grab something from the food vendors and meet at 12 noon in the grandstand. We will be monitoring use 144.43 MHz simplex. The Hamvention closes at 5 pm.

Friday evening we are planning dinner at a Nick's, a local Pub, recommend by Mike Sercher. Nick's Restaurant. is on Hwy 68 basically just North the fairgrounds at [443 N Detroit St., Xenia, OH 45385](#).

It's also a pub and it does get very busy so expect a wait. They have a good selection and their prices are reasonable. They don't take reservations. It is located close to the Hamvention, almost walking distance. There is a couple of other restaurants located in Xenia we can use as a backup if Nick's is too crowded. We hope getting there before 5 PM will get us in before the crowd.

If you plan to attend email K9RU at k9ru@arrl.net. Also include your contact information (cell phone number) so we can pass along location and/or last minute changes. --K9RU

ARRL ADVOCATES FOR RADIO AMATEURS AS FCC PROPOSES CHANGES TO 60-METER BAND

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® urged protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned to the FCC to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested."

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth, but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks. --ARRL

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST

The US Department of Defense (DoD) will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 13, 2023. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event.

The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario.

Military stations will transmit on selected frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All of the times are Zulu (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted. The frequencies used for the test will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

A complete list of frequencies, time periods, QSL cards, and other information can be found at DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day.

AFD is a time of honor. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The first AFD was celebrated with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows. Today, many events and activities take place and may include multi-service military displays in areas open to the public, various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces, and large parades with local celebrations.

The longest running AFD parade in the United States is held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Certain types of music will be played at AFD 2023 events to show respect to those in the armed forces who died for their country. --ARRL

MAKING A BIG DECISION – TOGETHER

Dear ARRL Affiliated Club:

This Monday, May 1, ARRL will launch a survey for members, encouraging their participation as we consider a dues increase. The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. The survey will also include an opportunity for members to share their feedback. The participation of every member is important. Please encourage all the ARRL members in your radio club to complete the survey in May.

The survey will open on May 1 at www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey. This is a member-only page. Members need to be logged into the ARRL website to take the survey. Members who are not logged in may select the Login button on the top of the web page, and they will be prompted to enter their ARRL website username and password. If they have not logged in since April 2022, they should use these [Login Instructions](#). Thank you in advance for urging all ARRL members to complete the survey.

73 Mike Walters, W8ZY, ARRL Field Services Manager

PS: this message was sent to club Presidents, Secretaries, Newsletter Editors, and Contact Persons. We're grateful for all you do to help keep your club members informed and engaged.
--ARRL

NATIONAL VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM OF BROADCASTING OPEN DURING 2023 DAYTON HAMVENTION®

The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting, in conjunction with the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, announced their expanded hours during the 2023 Dayton Hamvention®.

The museum will be open Thursday, May 18, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM; Friday, May 19, from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM; Saturday, May 20, from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and Sunday, May 21, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Admission is \$10.00 at the door. The West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA, will be on the air. The museum is a short drive from Hamvention, down Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. Use the Crosley Blvd address on your GPS.

New exhibits include a dedicated room for amateur radio and shortwave equipment and a newly renovated ham shack with state-of-the-art equipment from Yaesu, Icom, and Elecraft. Docents and operators will be available to enhance visits to the museum.

For further information, visit voamuseum.org or wc8voa.org. You can also find the museum on Facebook or call 513-777-0027. The museum's regular hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and it is located at 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio.

ARSA ANNOUNCES 2023 AWARD WINNER

The Amateur Radio Software Award (ARSA) Committee has announced that GridTracker, a project led by Stephen Loomis, N0TTL, and the GridTracker.org team, has been selected as the recipient of the 4th annual Amateur Radio Software Award.

The award recognizes software projects that enhance amateur radio and promote innovation, freedom, and openness in amateur radio software development.

The committee received many nominations for the 2023 award, and after careful consideration, GridTracker was chosen as the winner. The committee was impressed by the breadth of features in GridTracker, its innovative graphic interface, and its ability to make amateur radio more fun.

GridTracker is a tool that visualizes WSJT-X amateur radio traffic, like FT8 and contacts from log files, which makes it easier for radio amateurs to track their contacts and participate in contests. Its unique approach to visualizing radio traffic adds a new dimension of enjoyment to the radio art.

To learn more about GridTracker, visit <https://gridtracker.org>.

As part of the award, Loomis has requested that a \$300 grant be donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Oregon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

The ARSA Committee is already looking forward to next year's award and welcomes input and nominations for future awards. --ARRL

NASA NAMES THREE HAMS FOR ARTEMIS II MOON MISSION CREW



NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the four astronauts who will venture around the moon on Artemis II. This will be the first crewed mission on NASA's path to establishing long-term moon science and exploration development. The agencies revealed the crew members on Monday, April 3, 2023, during an event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Three of the four crew members are amateur radio operators.

"The Artemis II crew represents thousands of people working tirelessly to bring us to the stars. This is their crew, this is our crew, this is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch, and CSA

astronaut Jeremy Hansen, each has their own story, but together, they represent our creed: E pluribus unum - out of many, one. Together, we are ushering in a new era of exploration for a new generation of star sailors and dreamers - the Artemis Generation."

The crew will work as a team to execute an ambitious set of demonstrations during the flight test.

Their assignments are as follows: Commander Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glover, KI5BKC, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. Koch had planned to study and take her amateur license exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly rescheduled 6 months earlier than originally planned. She had to immediately begin preparing for her flight instead of studying.

The Artemis II mission is scheduled to launch in November 2024. The approximately 10-day flight test will launch on the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket, prove the Orion spacecraft's life-support systems, and validate the capabilities and techniques needed for humans to live and work in deep space.

For more information, visit the NASA website. --ARRL

2023 ONLINE HAM BOOTCAMP

The Nashua Area Radio Society's spring 2023 online Ham Bootcamp will be held on Saturday, May 13, from 10 AM to 6 PM Eastern Time. Access to the session will be provided via Zoom.

Ham Bootcamp includes a series of demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician-, General-, and Extra-class license holders get on the air. Ham Bootcamp is also a great opportunity for hams who are interested in seeing what the hobby has to offer.

The online Ham Bootcamp program is available to all licensed and prospective amateur radio operators. You can register for the next Ham Bootcamp session [here](#). For additional information, contact Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB, of the Nashua Area Radio Society at ab1qb@arri.net.

The Nashua Area Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

TIME TO GET READY FOR FIELD DAY

2023 ARRL Field Day will be held June 24 - 25. It is ham radio's open house. Every June, hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Some participants may also choose to operate from home, using the exercise to develop and practice their personal radio communications capability.

Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

In 2022, 4,929 entries were submitted (including check logs), and there was a total of 29,679 reported participants.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit and may submit entries as check logs.

The main focus of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, all bands on 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

For Field Day 2023, several rules changes have been made. It's a good idea to make sure that your logging software has been updated to the most current version to incorporate these rule changes including the updated Canadian sections list. There are many facets to operating on Field Day and knowing the rules and keeping good logs are paramount to successful contacts.

The RCA ARC will participate in ARRL Field Day with the Indy United group operating from the Victor Conservation Club. This is a SSB, CW and FT8 multi station setup with with a GOTA station and 6 meter station.

The Victor Conservation Club is a great location, quite, and about 250 feet above most of the surrounding area.

Setup will begin Friday afternoon with FD running 24 hours Saturday until Sunday afternoon.

EAA AIRVENTURE 2023, OSHKOSH, WI - SPECIAL EVENT STATION W9ZL - OPERATORS SIGN UP

The sign-up for this year's EAA Special Event Station is now open to all ARRL members. Sign up will be drawing to a close on May 13 2023. This has to be done so the EAA can finalize their planning to accommodate us during the event.

This year we will operate on 7 days -- Monday through Sunday -- during the show (July 24 thru July 30, 2022). This operating event is open to all license classes. We will operate 2 HF stations, one on 20m, one on 40m, 6-meter SSB, plus local communications on 2-meters. The club call, W9ZL, will be used throughout the event.

We are looking for both "AM" and "PM" operators covering each of the 7 days (please note- some shifts are already filled and are no longer available) You can sign up for one shift or more if you so desire. The event is open to all of the amateur community. If operators sign up for a 4 hour shift, they will be given a daily wristband that will allow them to go and wander around the Fly-in.

For further information and to sign up to operate the event go to: <http://fcarc.club> The sign-up form is available at the Event Sign-ups tab on the W9ZL website home page.

Or you may contact Jon Oldenburg AB9AH at: AB9AH@arrl.net

Hope to see you all soon! Jon Oldenburg AB9AH, W9ZL Special Event Coordinator, EAA AirVenture 2023

TECHNICAL

ARRL Learning Center – The ARRL Learning Center is an online learning environment for ARRL members designed to help you get the most out of your license. Take online courses, featuring activities and video tutorials created by ARRL-approved experts. Use course work and resources to improve your knowledge and skills getting on the air, serving your community in emergencies, and with electronics and technology. [Get Started](#)

The proceedings for the 2023 Microwave Update and the 46th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference held April 14-15 in Windsor, Connecticut, are available at: <http://microwaveupdate.org/proceedings.php>.

The events were sponsored by the [North East Weak Signal Group](#). - Thanks to Paul Wade, W1GHZ

SHORTS

3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition Full Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbD0xmsk75U3>

FCC Exposure Rules Soon to Affect Every US Radio Amateur – Beginning May 3, all ham radio transmitters operating in the US will be expected to comply with new FCC rules governing RF exposure limits. These new rules, which went into effect in May 2021, raised many questions in the ham radio community. Gregory Lapin's, N9GL, article, "FCC Exposure Rules Soon to Affect Every US Radio Amateur," is a plain-language explanation of the FCC's expectations including information about how to perform the necessary assessments of your station. [Read QST](#)

On the Air - Getting on Six Meters and Having Fun Once You Get There – Summer propagation conditions are starting soon, and when you consider everything that Solar Cycle 25 is doing to boost propagation as well, it's a great time to get on the air. May through August is prime time for the 6-meter band — a band that hams of every license class has access to. Read

the article to learn about the interesting, elusive propagation mode that makes 6 meters so amazing, and get information about what kind of equipment you need to work "The Magic Band!" [Read On the Air](#)

The National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a 2nd Errata for the 2023 - 2027 General Class Element 3 Question Pool –The [NCVEC](#) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has released the [second revision](#) of the 2023 - 2027 General Class element 3 Question Pool. This revision supplants the question pools released on December 1, 2022, and February 1, 2023. The changes are reflected in the new General pool downloadable files, dated April 15, 2023. Three questions have been withdrawn from use and removed from the pool: G6B09, G9C06, and G9D13. Most of the other questions had minor changes. ARRL VEC teams are advised to check the [NCVEC website](#) or the [ARRL website](#) regularly for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions. The new General Class Element 3 Question Pool goes into effect on July 1, 2023.

Spaceweather.com released this news: "Evidence is mounting that Solar Cycle 25 might peak much earlier than expected. New research by a leading group of solar physicists predicts maximum sunspot activity in late 2023 or early 2024 with a peak that could be twice as strong as the previous solar cycle."

It is all explained in this paper: <https://bit.ly/41gZnW4> Look in the Spaceweather.com archive for April 12 - 13 to read more.

NTIA Seeking Spectrum- National Telecommunications and Information Administration looking for at least 1500 MHz of spectrum that can be "repurposed" to meet growing demand for wireless applications and other advanced technology

N3FJP's ARRL Field Day Log 6.6.7 Now Available - N3FJP's *ARRL Field Day Log* had been updated to support the rule changes that ARRL has announced for Field Day 2023, including changes in scoring for GOTA stations and an additional power category for Class A, B, and C stations.

To download installation files and software updates for all of N3FJP's applications, visit <https://www.n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>.

THANKS FOR READING

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.
